



# The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

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## *April 2021 Newsletter*

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### **Upcoming Meetings:**

**May 14:** Brian Smith, W9IND, will talk about the Indy United group's Field Day history and plans, VIA ZOOM.

**June 11:** Will Jourdain, AA4WJ, from Icom America. Presentation on the new IC-705 QRP portable radio, VIA ZOOM. **There are a limited number of Icom “swag bags” that will be given away by random draw at the end of this meeting. To be eligible, you must be a member of the club, and be present on the Zoom call at the time of the drawing.**

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### **Highlights from the April Meeting:**

Called to order at 7:31 by club president, David Spoelstra, N9KT.

There were 33 in attendance.

Introductions: Ron Beam, KD9ARI, is a new ham and new member to the club. Ellen and Gordon Brock, KD9RUD and KD9RUE, are new hams and new members.

Announcements: Ken Bandy, KJ9B, introduced a new Elmer program, where established hams can offer help to new hams in the area. David announced that the club will have a presence at the upcoming Indy hamfest, and volunteers are needed to man a Club info table at the hamfest. Contact Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR, at [Kyle@bandy.email](mailto:Kyle@bandy.email) to volunteer.

Field Day is coming up June 26-27. The IRC will be working with the Indy United group. Brian Smith, W9IND, of the Indy United group, will be featured at the May Zoom meeting of the IRC with details. David reminded those present that classes at Ivy Tech are free for those 60 and older, with the only cost being class materials. Email David at [president@indyradioclub.org](mailto:president@indyradioclub.org) for details. We are starting to plan for our December Christmas get-together. This event was a great success in 2019, and will again be headed up by Jeff Hammer, N9NIC. David asked for those present to send him ideas for speakers for upcoming meetings: [president@indyradioclub.org](mailto:president@indyradioclub.org).

Next, David introduced this evening's speaker, John Portune, W6NBC, speaking on slot antennas. "Double Inverted Delta HF Skeleton Slot Antenna". "Undiscovered Country" in Ham Radio. Slot antennas were introduced in 1938 by Alan Blumlein, EMI England TV Broadcasting. John discovered the "Skeleton Slot" in answer to some of his questions. Remember, all parts of an antenna do not radiate. John had lots of slides to explain and demonstrate slot antennas. There were some good questions afterwards. John has a book on slot antennas available as a Kindle book. Search for "Slot Antennas for Ham Radio" on Amazon, and it will come right up. The PowerPoint slides for this presentation, as well as other presentations of John's are available on his web site: <http://www.w6nbc.com/>

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45

## **Ham Radio News:**

### **CLUB DUES ARE DUE, AND PAYABLE VIA PAYPAL NOW!**

Club Dues for 2021 are due now. Individual dues are \$20 per year, or Family dues are \$30 per year (all family members need to live in the same household). Dues can be paid with PayPal at [treasurer@indyradioclub.org](mailto:treasurer@indyradioclub.org). Be sure to send the payment as a "friend", **not for** "goods and services". This will prevent any fees being assessed to the payment. For those that don't have a PayPal account, you can send a check made out to "Indianapolis Radio Club" to Ken Bandy, 7405 E. County Road 900 N, Brownsburg, IN 46112.

### **INQP 2021 COMING MAY 1, WITH SOMETHING NEW!**

The Indiana QSO Party is now just a couple of weeks away. This is the chance for Indiana operators to be treated as "rare DX". OK, maybe not THAT rare, but State QSO

parties have really been generating a lot of interest the past couple of years, with the introduction of the State QSO Party Challenge. This is also your chance to “get your feet wet” in contesting. State QSO Parties are where everyone tries to get as many counties in a state as they can. This means that Indiana stations will be trying to get as many other Indiana counties as they can, and stations outside of Indiana will be trying to get as many Indiana counties as they can. This means if conditions are good, you can stay as busy as you want.

This year there are two new “rare county” plaques to be awarded. To qualify, stations must be single county fixed or portable and meet the requirements in the INQP Rules (single operator or Multi-Single). A plaque will be awarded to each of the top two entries with the most logged QSOs from a rare county regardless of power category. Score will be used as a tie-breaker if necessary. Stations must have at least 50 QSOs to be eligible for a plaque. The counties that qualify as “rare” are as follows: Benton, Carroll, Cass, Dearborn, Decatur, Fountain, Fulton, Jay, Jefferson, Montgomery, Newton, Ohio, Owen, Pike, Pulaski, Randolph, Ripley, Rush, Scott, Spencer, Switzerland, and Union.

This year the Indiana QSO Party is on Saturday, May 1, from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm Eastern time (1500 UTC Saturday through 0300 UTC Sunday). **Also, don’t forget about the club competition when submitting your log for the INQP, be sure to designate the “Indianapolis Radio Club” as your club.** There is a club award for the most combined points. For all of the details, point your browser to <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html>.

## **INDY RADIO CLUB STARTS “ELMER PROGRAM”**

Over the past year, the VE testing sessions sponsored by the Indianapolis Radio Club, as well as those sponsored by other clubs around the state, have been producing lots and lots of new hams. Quite often these new hams get their new license, and then wonder “what next?”. At most testing sessions, the successful candidate is given a sheet of information regarding how to get more involved with their new hobby, but these new hams need more. Unless these new hams have someone to turn to for advice on what radio to get, how to get on area repeaters, where to get their gear and such, the new ham may become disillusioned with the hobby, and in time drop out completely.

At the club’s April Zoom meeting, I announced that we are starting an Elmer program. There is so much knowledge and experience available in the membership of our club just waiting to be accessed. My vision for this program is to establish a list of Elmers around central Indiana. Then we make our program known to the new hams in the welcome

letter we send them, asking them to contact the “Elmer Coordinator”, who can then put them in contact with an Elmer in their area to work with them. Often times, when I have worked with new hams, they just need to know what type of gear they need, and where to get it. Also, a list of local repeaters and “nets” that these new hams can check in to is very valuable to them, allowing them to learn how to get on the air and communicate successfully.

So, if you would like to offer your knowledge and experience to help out a new ham, and our hobby, contact me either by phone at (317) 286-6606, or by email at [ken.kj9b@gmail.com](mailto:ken.kj9b@gmail.com). Keep in mind, I am not looking just for hams that have been licensed since the days of spark gap. Some of the best advice can come from a ham who has only been licensed a few years, and remembers what helped them the most in getting their “feet wet” in the hobby.

Thanks,  
Ken, KJ9B

## **Summary of Responses from Indianapolis Radio Club “50 year” survey**

Total Surveys received: 95

Median Age: 67

96% Male; 3% Female; 1% Fluid, non-specific

100% White/Caucasian (except for a few Cyborgs, Klingons, and Mongolian Root Grubbers)

74% Are members of IRC

82% Are members of ARRL

Licensing info:

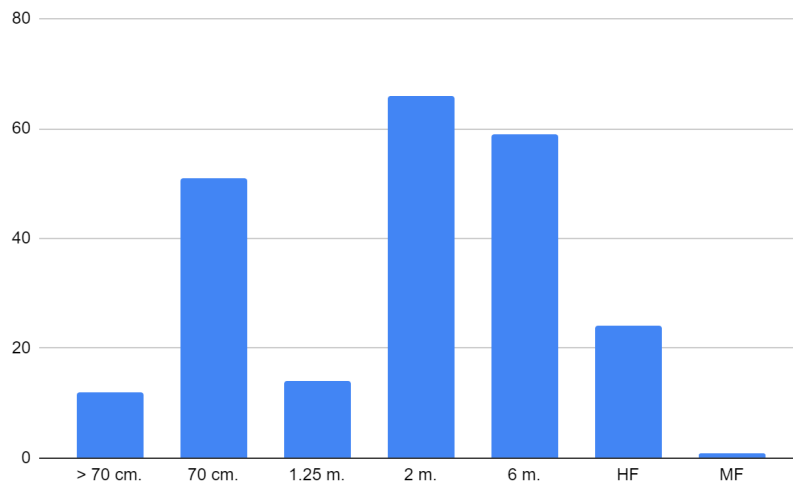
66% Extra; 25% General; 7% Technician; 1% Advanced; 1% not licensed

Year licensed ranged from 1950 to 2021;

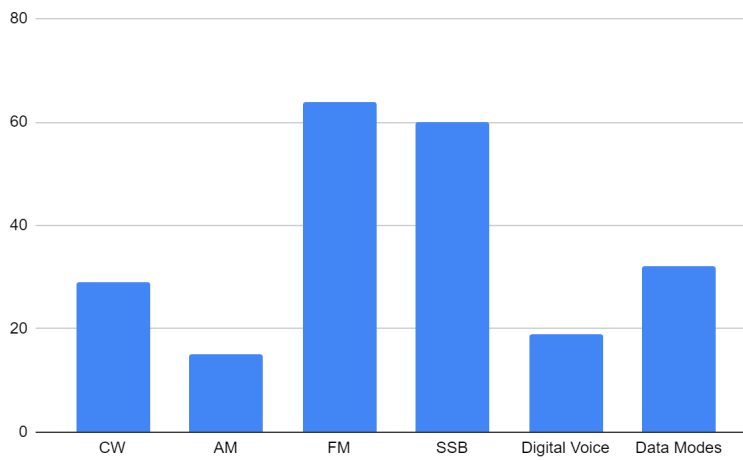
4 years tied for the most people licensed: 1962, 1969, 2019, and 2021.

82% are actively on the air.

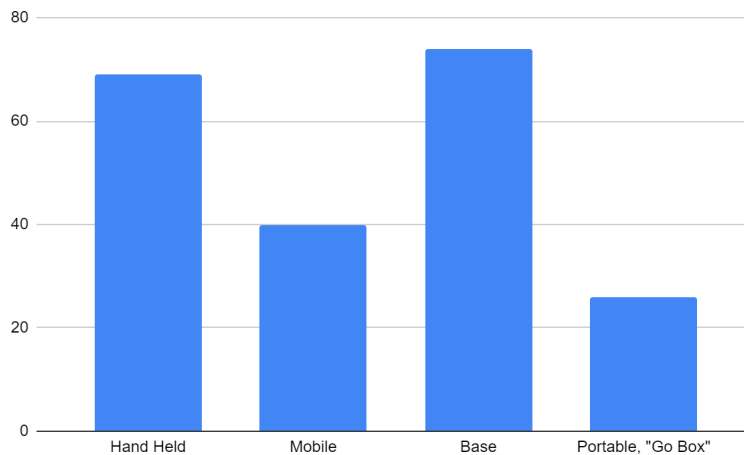
#### Band Activity:



#### Mode Activity:



### Types of Gear:



THANKS TO ALL WHO RESPONDED! HOPEFULLY WE CAN DO THE NEXT SURVEY SOONER THAN 2071!

## INDIANAPOLIS HAMFEST AND STATE CONVENTION

The 50th Indianapolis Hamfest will be held July 9 & 10 at the Marion County Fairgrounds. The ARRL Indiana State Convention will be held in conjunction with the Hamfest. Check <http://indyhamfest.com/> for more details as they become available.

## IRC AND THE UPCOMING INDY HAMFEST

The Indianapolis Radio Club will have a few tables at the Indianapolis Hamfest coming up July 9, from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm, and July 10, from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm. Currently, we plan to have the following tables that will need to be manned:

- A general display about the club, with handouts regarding the club.
- A special event station set up making HF contacts for W9JP.
- An "Ask the Elmer" table, with the Satern group tentatively going to be on hand to help program handhelds.
- The prize drum for the hamfest.

It would be great if we could have 3 to 4 people available to man these tables during the opening hours of the hamfest. These folks don't have to commit to the whole run, just an hour or two at a time would be great. Please contact Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR, at [Kyle@bandy.email](mailto:Kyle@bandy.email) if you can help.

## **W9DXCC SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER**

Planning is underway for the 68th W9DXCC Convention and Banquet on Sept. 10-11, 2021. The event, sponsored by the Northern Illinois DX Association, will be at the Marriott in Naperville, Illinois.

W9DXCC will offer Contest University and DX University on Friday. The daylong session on Saturday will feature speakers, exhibits, QSL card checking, and a CW pileup contest, as well as an evening reception and banquet. Paul DeFelice (K9NU) will again serve as chairman.

Convention registration and access to the special hotel rate will be available later in the spring. We look forward to seeing you at this major event for the DX community.

For more information: <http://w9dxcc.com/>

## **CINCINNATI HAMFEST AND W8DXCC THIS SUMMER**

The 2021 Cincinnati Hamfest, and W8DXCC Convention will be held on Saturday, August 28, 2021. The events will both be held at the Clermont County Fairgrounds, in Owensville, OH. For more information, go to <https://cincinnatihamfest.org/>.

## **W4DXCC DX & CONTEST CONVENTION COMING UP**

September 24 and 25 are the dates for the 2021 W4DXCC. This DX and contest convention takes place in Pigeon Forge, TN, a relatively short, and very scenic drive from central Indiana. The two day event is scheduled to kick off with a “Ham Radio Bootcamp”, making it a great convention for those relatively new to the hobby, or even those that have been hams for a while, but want to brush up on operating techniques. The event wraps up with a banquet (at an extra charge), where you can chat with fellow hams over dinner, comparing notes or “tall tales”. Final planning for the event is still underway. Check their website at <http://w4dxcc.com/> for all the details.

## **NEW \$35 FCC APPLICATION FEE NOT TAKING EFFECT UNTIL LATER.**

The \$35 license application fee, when it becomes effective, will apply to new, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call sign applications, as well as applications for a special temporary authority (STA) or a rule waiver. All fees will be per application. Administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address, are exempt.

It is expected that such fees will not become effective before summer 2021. The FCC has stated that amateurs will have advance warning of the actual effective date, because it will publish such date in the Federal Register.

The ARRL VEC exam fee will remain at \$15. When the FCC application fee eventually takes effect, new and upgrade applicants will pay the \$15 exam session fee to the VE team as usual and then pay the \$35 application fee directly to the FCC.

## **UPDATED RF EXPOSURE RULES ARE EFFECTIVE MAY 3**

The new rules do not change existing RF exposure (RFE) limits but do require that stations in all services, including amateur radio, be evaluated against existing limits, unless they are exempted. For stations already in place, that evaluation must be completed by May 3, 2023. After May 3 of this year, any new station, or any existing station modified in a way that's likely to change its RFE profile — such as different antenna or placement or greater power — will need to conduct an evaluation by the date of activation or change.

“For most amateurs, the major difference is the removal of the categorical exclusion for amateur radio, which means that ham station owners must determine if they either qualify for an exemption or must perform a routine environmental evaluation,” said Greg Lapin, N9GL, chair of the ARRL RF Safety Committee and a member of the FCC Technological Advisory Council (TAC).

For more information, go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/updated-radio-frequency-exposure-rules-become-effective-on-may-3>



## **UPCOMING INDIANAPOLIS AREA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)**

Noblesville IN 46060-1624

Sponsor: Central Indiana ARA

Date: Apr 17 2021

Time: 10:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Joe March

(317) 224-9433

Email: [jmarch54@att.net](mailto:jmarch54@att.net)

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Hamilton Cty Emer Operations Ctr

18100 Cumberland Rd

Sheriff's Campus Training Room

CALL AHEAD

Noblesville IN 46060-1624

Anderson IN 46016-2238

Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club

Date: Apr 20 2021

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Stephen M. Riley

(765) 425-4627

Email: [wa9cwe@arrl.net](mailto:wa9cwe@arrl.net)

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Madison County EOC

200 Delaware St

Anderson IN 46016-2238

Bloomington IN 47401

Sponsor: bloomington amt Radio Club Inc

Date: May 01 2021

Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: William F. Wootton

(812) 876-8689

Email: [wfwootton@gmail.com](mailto:wfwootton@gmail.com)

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: COVID-19 OUTDOOR SESSIONS  
2800 E Rogers Rd  
Bloomington IN 47401

Indianapolis IN 46254-2407  
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club-W9JP  
Date: May 08 2021  
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: James K. Rinehart  
(317) 721-1458  
Email: k9ru@arrl.net  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility  
4020 Georgetown Rd  
Indianapolis IN 46254-2407

Muncie IN 47304-5019  
Sponsor: Delaware amt Radio Assoc  
Date: May 08 2021  
Time: 1:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: C Kurt. Alexander  
(765) 215-0348  
Email: ckurtalexander@hotmail.com  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Muncie Alliance Church  
5601 W Jackson St  
Muncie IN 47304-5019

Anderson IN 46016-2238  
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club  
Date: May 18 2021  
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Stephen M. Riley  
(765) 425-4627  
Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net  
VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Madison County EOC  
200 Delaware St  
Anderson IN 46016-2238

Rushville IN 46173-1846

Sponsor: ARRL

Date: May 22 2021

Time: 9:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Michael Dwight. Elder

Email: [wj9e42@yahoo.com](mailto:wj9e42@yahoo.com)

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Rushville Public Library

130 W 3rd St

Rushville IN 46173-1846

Website: Must have FRN ahead of time! Contact by E-Mail [WJ9E42@yahoo.com](mailto:WJ9E42@yahoo.com)

## **FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER**

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at [http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews\\_indyradioclub.org](http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org).

## **SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS**

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at [kj9b@arrl.net](mailto:kj9b@arrl.net)

## **Signals from the Past:**

**From the March-April, 1971 *Amachewer*:**

Q.- What is the origin of the international distress signal “Mayday?”

A.- It is a corruption of the French phrase “m’aidez” - meaning “aid me” or “help me”.

## Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- ~~Dayton Hamvention: May 21 – 23:~~**CANCELED** Go to <https://hamvention.org/>.
- HCARC Tailgate: May 22, in New Castle. Go to <http://w9ob.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Tailgate1.pdf> for more information.
- Indianapolis Hamfest: July 9-10, 2021 Watch <http://indyhamfest.com/> for more info.
- East Central Indiana Hamfest: July 31, in Winchester. Go to <https://sites.google.com/view/ecindianahamfest> for details.
- Hendricks County Tailgate: August 14, in Avon. Go to <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/hendricks-county-tailgate-fest> for info.
- Cincinnati Hamfest and W8DXCC: August 28. Owensville, OH. Go to <https://cincinnatihamfest.org/> for more info.

## 2021 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – [president@indyradioclub.org](mailto:president@indyradioclub.org)
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - [vp@indyradioclub.org](mailto:vp@indyradioclub.org)
- Secretary: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - [secretary@indyradioclub.org](mailto:secretary@indyradioclub.org)
- Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - [treasurer@indyradioclub.org](mailto:treasurer@indyradioclub.org)
- Chief Operator: OPEN
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Jay Kraus, W9TC - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Jeff Hammer, N9NIC - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: George Taylor, KC9IKD - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - [w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org](mailto:w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org)